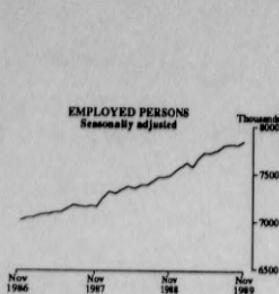


Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 14 December 1989

The week in statistics ...

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Employment growth returns in November

Employment rose in November by 36,800 persons in seasonally adjusted terms, following a small fall in October. Total employment was estimated to be 7,842,800 persons, of whom 79 per cent were full-time workers.

There was a strong rise in full-time employment of 42,200 in the month, including 28,700 more females in full-time jobs.

The number in part-time employment fell slightly, and the apparent shift in interest from part-time to full-time work also showed up in the unemployment figures. While the number of people looking for full time jobs increased, the number seeking part-time employment dropped from 118,200 to 111,200 (again seasonally adjusted).

The number of unemployed persons was estimated at 491,500 persons. This estimate has been below 500,000 for four of the past six months.

The unemployment rate stood at 5.9 per cent (seasonally adjusted) for November 1989 — the second time this year it has been below 6 per cent. Previously the unemployment rate had not been below 6 per cent since October 1981.

These changes in the labour force produced a participation rate of 63.5 per cent — the equal highest ever recorded by the survey. The female participation rate, also a record high estimate at 51.7 per cent, topped 51 per cent for the seventh consecutive month.

Trend estimates of total employment show continued growth but the rate of growth has slowed in recent months. This pattern is also reflected in the employment estimates for each State.

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY ESTIMATES Seasonally adjusted

	Employed			Un employed	Un employment rate	Participa- tion rate - per cent -	
	Full-time workers	Part-time workers	Total				
	'000-						
1989—							
August	6,184.0	1,616.0	7,800.0	492.3	5.9	63.4	
September	6,172.0	1,641.8	7,813.8	505.4	6.1	63.5	
October	6,183.4	1,622.6	7,806.0	494.2	6.0	63.3	
November	6,225.6	1,617.2	7,842.8	491.5	5.9	63.5	

For further information, order the publication *The Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary (6202.0)*, or contact Bruce McClelland on (062) 52 6525

Tourists fail to arrive with the season

The actual number of overseas visitors to Australia rose by 16 per cent from 149,900 in September to 174,100 in October.

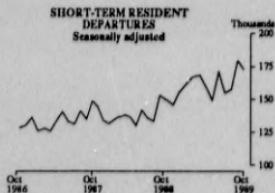


After adjusting for regular seasonal patterns, however, the number of arrivals in October was 10 per cent lower than September.

Of particular note was the downturn in visitor arrivals from the USA (one of Australia's largest sources of overseas visitors), with arrivals down 30 per cent from the October figure in each of the previous two years.

The number of Australians travelling overseas fell 27 per cent from the previous month, but on a seasonally adjusted basis, there was only a 4 per cent decline on the record figure set in September.

Compared with the same month in previous years there was a rise in resident departures in October, predominantly to nearby Asian and Pacific destinations. Some 'substitution effect' probably occurred from Australian destinations isolated as a result of the pilots dispute.



SHORT TERM OVERSEAS TRAVELLERS

Seasonally adjusted
Thousands

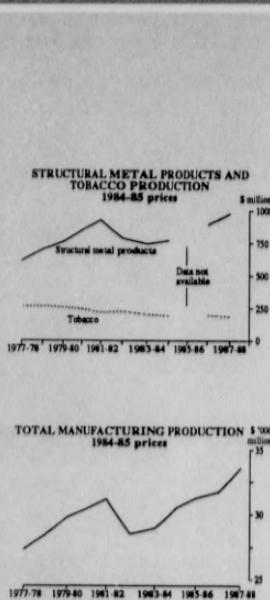
	Visitor arrivals	Resident departures
1987—		
August	157.7	120.6
September	164.9	170.9
October	158.3	142.1
1988—		
August	219.6	133.2
September	215.4	152.9
October	194.5	149.4
1989—		
August	182.2	157.6
September	182.9	179.3
October	164.9	172.5

For further information, order the publication *Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia* (3401.0), or contact Noelle Pocknall on (062) 52 6671

Mixed picture of long-term manufacturing growth

Some of Australia's key manufacturing industries recorded spectacular real growth in the decade to 1987-88, while others actually declined over the same period.

The mixed fortunes of different industries may be considered within the context of a 22.9 per cent growth in real terms for total manufacturing production.



The publication, *Constant Price Estimates of Manufacturing Production, Australia* (8211.0), just released, provides detailed estimates, for 1986-87 and 1987-88, of gross product at average 1984-85 prices for subdivisions, groups and classes of the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC).

Industry groups showing the biggest change over the ten years are shown in the following table. The publication also contains statistics disaggregated at the more specific industry class level.

GROWTH IN MANUFACTURING PRODUCTION 1977-78 TO 1987-88
(1984-85 prices)

	Percentage increase
<i>Total manufacturing industry</i>	22.9
<i>Industries recording significant growth—</i>	
Structural metal products	59.6
Printing and allied industries	56.2
Basic non-ferrous metals	53.1
Plastic and related products	49.6
Glass	46.3
Photographic, professional and scientific equipment	45.5
Furniture and mattresses	44.9
<i>Industries recording significant decline—</i>	
Tobacco	-28.4
Non-metallic mineral products (other than glass, clay and cement)	-25.8
Margarine, oils and fats, nec	-16.9
Petroleum and coal products, nec	-15.4
Petroleum refining	-13.0

For further information, order the publication *Constant Price Estimates of Manufacturing Production, Australia* (8211.0), or contact Paul Curran on (062) 52 6708

Constant price estimates — how they work

Constant price statistics compiled by the ABS refer to estimates in dollar terms that have had the inflation effect (i.e. the changing purchasing power of the dollar) removed. Period-to-period movements in constant price estimates provide what are often called 'changes in real terms'.

The simplest way of producing such estimates is to multiply quantities of a particular good of the same quality (such as tonnes of coal) for each quarter or year by its 'base period' price. This results in changes in values which reflect only changes in the quantity of the good being produced.

The base period for all ABS constant price statistics is currently the financial year 1984-85, so that such series measure values expressed at the average prices prevailing in that year.

A more detailed explanation of the methods used by the ABS to derive constant price estimates can be found in *Australian National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (5216.0).

A closer look at manufacturing production

The ABS publishes timely information on Australia's manufacturing performance in far more detail than is generally realised. In fact, production figures on 600 of the more important items manufactured in Australia are updated on a monthly basis in nine separate bulletins.

For example, the recently released *Production of Clothing and Footwear, Australia, August 1989* (8358.0) provides information on the number of suits, shirts, trousers, jumpers, socks, shoes, foundation garments and so on manufactured in Australia in August. Figures for previous months and years are also given.

The major commodity areas covered by each of the production bulletins in the series are indicated below.

<i>Cat. No.</i>	<i>Items covered</i>
8357.0	Refrigerators, television sets, other household appliances, electric motors, lawn mowers, electrical equipment
8358.0	Clothing, footwear
8359.0	Food, beverages, tobacco, stock and poultry food
8360.0	Fibres, yarns, fabrics, bedding, floor coverings
8361.0	Building materials, stoves, ovens, water heaters, space heaters
8362.0	Paper, plastics, paints, industrial chemicals, detergents
8363.0	Cars, station wagons, trucks, caravans, trailers
8367.0	Metals, metal products
8368.0	Electricity, gas, petroleum refinery products

These very detailed bulletins are published a few weeks after the monthly publication *Production Statistics, Australia, Preliminary* (8301.0), which provides preliminary estimates for 27 of the main items included in the bulletins.

Order any of these publications by contacting Information Services (see page 6). For further information, contact Kevin Squair on (062) 52 5558

Fount of statistical knowledge

It may be no surprise that the ABS conducted 349 statistical collections in the period from 1984-85 to 1988-89. It may well be a surprise though that other Commonwealth Government agencies conducted no less than 780 statistical collections in the period from 1984-85 to 1987-88.

As a service to all users of statistics, the ABS has just published the 1989 edition of its *Register of Commonwealth Statistical Collections*.

The extensively indexed register contains the essential facts about all these sources of statistics, including collection title, geographic coverage, responsible agency, most recent collection period and whether the collection remains current or has ceased.

The Register is published periodically and, as you would expect, covers data collections on subjects as diverse as fish market prices and public attitudes to crime and sentencing.

For further information, order the publication Register of Commonwealth Statistical Collections (1114.0)

All the week's releases: 6 to 12 December

Inquiries

The ABS supplies statistical information:

- through its bookshops
- by mail order (including subscription)
- by facsimile
- electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

ABS Central Office

PO BOX 10
BELCONNEN ACT 2616
T (062) 52 6627
FAX (062) 53 1404

ABS State Offices

T **NSW** (02) 268 4611
Vic. (03) 615 7000
Qld (07) 222 6351
WA (09) 323 5140
SA (08) 237 7100
Tas. (002) 20 5800
NT (089) 81 3456

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

The Editor
Statistics Weekly
(062) 52 6917

General

Publications Issued in November 1989 (1102.0; \$4.50)
Digest of Economic Statistics, Aust., October 1989 (1305.0; \$5.00) — *final issue*
Statistics Weekly, 7 December 1989 (1318.0; \$3.50)
Tasmanian Pocket Yearbook, December 1989 (1302.6; \$5.95) (*Previously: Pocket Year Book of Tasmania*)

Census of Population and Housing

Census 86 — Older People in Vic., 1986 (2501.2; \$12.50) — *new issue*

Demography

Estimated Resident Population by Sex and Age: States and Territories of Aust., June 1988 and Preliminary June 1989 (3201.0; \$7.50)
Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Aust., October 1989 (3401.0; \$4.00)
Deaths, NSW, 1988 (3307.1; \$10.50)
Estimated Resident Population by Age and Sex in Statistical Local Areas, WA, June 1988 (3203.5; \$11.50)
Deaths, SA, 1988 (3302.4; \$7.00)

Social statistics

Child Care Arrangements, Qld, June 1987 (4402.3; \$7.50)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Exports, Aust., September Qtr 1989 (5434.0; \$15.00)
Personal Finance, Aust., September 1989 (5642.0; \$4.50)
Local Government, Qld, 1987-88 (5502.3; \$15.00)

Labour statistics and prices

The Labour Force, Aust., November 1989, Preliminary (6202.0; \$8.00)
The Labour Force, Aust. — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, November 1989 (6271.0; \$60.00)
Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Aust., October 1989 (6312.0; \$8.00)

Secondary industry and distribution

Constant Price Estimates of Manufacturing Production, Aust., 1986-87 and 1987-88 (8211.0; \$7.50)
Production of Clothing and Footwear, Aust., August 1989 (8358.0; \$8.00)
Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, October 1989 (8504.0; \$4.50)
Production Statistics, NSW, August 1989 (8304.1; \$4.50)
Building Approvals, NSW, October 1989 (8731.1; \$8.00)
Sand, Gravel and Quarry Production, Qld, June 1989 (8403.3; \$4.50)
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Qld, September 1989 (8741.3; \$4.50)
Housing Preferences and Intentions, Perth Statistical Division, October 1988 (8790.5; \$9.50)
Tourist Accommodation (Preliminary), NT, November 1989 (8646.7; \$3.00)
Building Approvals, NT, October 1989 (8731.7; \$5.00)

Transport

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Qld, October 1989 (9303.3; \$5.00)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 26 December

December

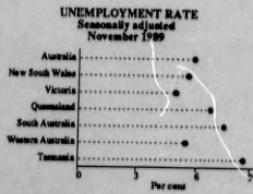
- 13 Building Activity, Aust., Dwelling Unit Commencements, September Qtr 1989, Preliminary (8750.0; \$4.50)
- 14 Retail Trade, Aust., October 1989 (8501.0; \$8.00)
- 15 Average Weekly Earnings, States and Aust., August 1989 (6302.0; \$8.00)
- 20 Quarterly Indexes of Manufacturing Production, Aust., September Qtr 1989 (8219.0; \$4.50)
- 21 Production Statistics, Australia, November 1989, Preliminary (8301.0; \$4.50)
- 22 Australian National Accounts: Gross Product, Employment and Hours Worked, September 1989 (5222.0; \$7.50)
Balance of Payments, November 1989 (5301.0; \$10.00)
Export Price Index, Australia, October 1989 (6405.0; \$4.50)
Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, October 1989 (6407.0; \$8.00)
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, October 1989 (6408.0; \$3.25)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to 12 December 1989

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (June qtr 89)*	20.8	11.7	13.1	3.5	6.3	78.0	n.a.	n.a.	15.9
Retail turnover (Sept. 89) (trend estimate)	14.7	5.4	10.6	6.0	13.7	10.3	n.a.	5.8	10.5
New motor vehicle registrations (Oct. 89)*	9.5	3.0	14.7	2.0	-6.4	n.a.	12.0	74.3	7.7
Number of dwelling unit approvals (Oct. 89)	-5.1	-32.8	-23.9	2.2	-40.0	-3.0	-38.8	-14.7	-21.7
Value of total building work done (June 89)	38.6	42.1	34.4	22.9	54.9	17.4	-8.5	-3.0	36.8
Employed persons (Nov. 89)*	4.2	4.7	7.7	2.5	4.0	6.4	7.4	5.9	4.8
Capital city consumer price index (Sept. qtr 89)	8.1	8.3	7.8	7.6	7.8	7.2	7.0	5.6	8.0
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (May 89)	9.0	6.6	7.7	6.9	8.0	8.2	5.6	6.6	7.8
Population (June 89)	1.1	1.3	3.2	1.1	3.0	0.6	0.2	1.6	1.6
Room occupancy rates in licensed hotels and motels, etc (June qtr 89)	-3.5	-0.7	-12.6	1.5	3.5	4.5	0.9	-10.0	-3.9

* Seasonally adjusted for States (but not Territories)



The latest ...

Key national indicators - consolidated to 12 December 1989

8

		Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National production						
Gross domestic product — current prices	\$m	Sept. qtr 89	89,803	89,733	1.8	13.0
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	63,334	63,732	0.7	5.4
Industrial activity						
New capital expenditure — current prices	\$m	Sept. qtr 89	7,100	7,355	0.0	20.2
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	5,496	5,701	-1.8	18.3
Expected new capital expenditure	"	Three months to Dec. 89	8,454	n.a.	n.a.	11.3
Retail turnover — current prices (e)	"	Sept. 89	6,729	6,893	2.5	10.7
— 1984-85 prices	"	Sept. qtr 89	14,280	14,788	0.9	5.0
New motor vehicle registrations	No.	Oct. 89	51,184	51,995	-5.9	7.7
Dwelling unit approvals	"	"	12,190	11,460	-7.9	-25.2
Value of all building approvals	\$m	"	2,517	2,464	2.2	14.4
Value of total building work done	"	June qtr 89	7,622	7,711	7.6	36.9
— current prices	"	"	5,138	5,198	4.7	21.1
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	34,261	34,196	3.4	14.6
Manufacturers' sales	"	June qtr 89				
Expected manufacturers' sales	"	Six months to Dec. 89	70,922	n.a.	n.a.	12.0
Labour						
Employed persons	'000	Nov. 89	7,870.7	7,842.8	0.5	4.8
Unemployment rate †	%	"	5.4	5.9	-0.1	-0.8
Participation rate †	"	"	63.3	63.5	0.2	1.2
Job vacancies	'000	August 89	64.3	n.a.	-12.1	-2.3
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours	"	1.5	n.a.	1.6	10.7
Prices, profits and wages						
Consumer price index	1980-81 = 100.0	Sept. qtr 89	197.0	n.a.	2.3	8.0
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industry	1984-85 = 100.0	Sept. 89	117.7	n.a.	-1.3	4.3
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry	1968-69 = 100.0	"	550.7	n.a.	0.3	6.5
Company profits before income tax	\$m	June qtr 89	4,610	5,054	9.3	24.6
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$	August 89	509.70	n.a.	1.7	8.2
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	Oct. 89	18.35	n.a.	0.0	4.3
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	13.55	n.a.	-0.1	1.7
Balance of payments						
Exports of merchandise	\$m	Oct. 89	3,989	4,090	-0.3	17.1
Imports of merchandise	"	"	-4,740	-4,338	-6.5	11.4
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"	-751	-248	53.8	38.2
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"	-1,171	-598	29.1	-7.6
Balance on current account (c)	"	"	-2,242	-1,657	14.2	-17.6
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0	Sept. qtr 89	n.a.	108.2	-2.8	3.0
Foreign investment						
Net foreign debt	\$m	30 Sept. 89	110,329	n.a.	1.9	14.7
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	147,716	n.a.	3.5	15.1
Exchange rates (monthly average)						
SUS	per \$A	Oct. 89	0.7749	n.a.	0.4	-4.2
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0	"	60.1	n.a.	-0.8	-1.2
Other indicators						
Population (estimated resident)	million	June 89	16.8	n.a.	0.4	1.6
Overseas visitors	000	Oct. 89	174	165	-9.8	-15.2

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures released on Thursday, 14 December 1989. n.a. = not available.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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